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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 LAB-04 SIL-01

COME-00 SCCT-01 IO-10 EB-07 /087 W
---------- 083258
O R 161530Z JUL 75
FM AMCONSUL LUANDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3800
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0913

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI AO
SUBJECT: MPLA PRESIDENT ISSUES BELLIGERENT STATEMENT; POWER
OUTAGE IN LUANDA

1. AGOSTINHO ISSUED A STATEMENT THE NIGHT OF JULY 15 IN WHICH
HE SAID THAT ALL ELEMENTS IN THE MPLA INCLUDING THE MILITARY
COMMAND AND THE POLITICAL BUREAU WERE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE CURRENT
OFFENSIVE TO EXPEL FNLA FROM LUANDA. HIS REMARKS WERE CLEARLY
DESIGNED TO ANSWER THE RUMORS THAT AGOSTINHO IS THE PRISONER OF
HIS MILITARY LEADERS AND THAT MODERATES IN THE PARTY OPPOSE THE
STRATEGY. HE ALSO SAID THAT MPLA WILL CONTINUE IN ITS EFFORTS
UNTIL FNLA REMOVES ITS EXCESS TROOPS FROM THE CITY IN LINE
WITH THE SEVERAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN THE LIBERATION MOVE-
MENTS AND UNTIL FNLA STOPS ITS CRIMINAL ACTIONS AGAINST THE
INHABITANTS OF LUANDA.

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2. THE WORD IS SPREADING THAT A LARGE FNLA FORCE IS ON ITS WAY

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SOUTH TO ENGAGE MPLA AND ATTEMPT A BREAKTHROUGH TO LUANDA. ON THE MORNING OF JULY 16 MPLA ASSAYED A BRIEF BOMBARDMENT OF THE FNLA STRONGHOLD IN THE SAN DEDRO DA BARRA FORTRESS NORTH OF THE CITY, BUT STOOD DOWN AFTER ABOUT A HALF HOUR.

3. THE CITY WAS QUIET DURING THE NIGHT OF JULY 15. PORTUGUESE TROOPS OPENED FIRE ON LOOTERS IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE CITY. ON THE MORNING OF THE SIXTEENTH PORTUGUESE ARMY UNITS COLLECTED SEVERAL DUMP TRUCK LOADS OF BLOATED CORPSES. THEIR PASSAGE THROUGH THE CITY IN CARAVAN MADE A DISTINCT IMPRESSION UPON THE POPULATION AT LARGE.

4. ALL POWER WENT OUT IN LUANDA SHORTLY AFTER 1700 HOURS LOCAL TIME ON JULY 15 AND REMAINED OFF UNTIL 1500 HOURS JULY 16. ALTHOUGH MANY DECIDED THE OUTAGE WAS THE RESULT OF SABOTAGE, IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY LACK OF TECHNICAL PERSONNEL ON THE JOB. THE MAIN POWER LINE FROM THE HYDROELECTRIC PLANT HAD BEEN IN NEED OF MAINTENANCE AND BROKE DOWN A FEW DAYS AGO. THE ALTERNATE LINE TOOK OVER, BUT AS IT IS DESIGNED TO FUNCTION FOR ONLY A SHORT PERIOD, IT, TOO, BROKE DOWN IN SHORT ORDER WHEN CREWS WERE NOT PUT TO WORK TO REPAIR THE PROBLEM.

5. DESPITE THE POWER OUTAGES GROUPS OF BLACKS AND WHITES WERE UP FOR WORK ON THE SIXTEENTH. SOME BUSES WERE RUNNING AND CREWS WERE OUT PATCHING UP HOLES IN THE STREETS. LONG LINES OF BLACKS WERE OUTSIDE BAKERIES. FOOD IS REACHING THE CITY, BUT SUPPLIES ARE VERY LIMITED. IF THE PRESENT CALM CONTINUES, STOCKS SHOULD REACH SAFE LEVELS WITHIN A FEW DAYS. MOST FOODSTUFFS COME FROM THE CENTRAL REGIONS, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY THE LATEST ROUND OF FIGHTING.

6. PORT WORKERS SHOWED UP ON THE DOCKS THE MORNING OF THE SIXTEENTH, OPENED HATCHES, PREPARED CREWS SCHEDULINGS, ANNOUNCED THEY WERE ON STRIKE AND WENT HOME. NOBODY NOTICED.

7. FOUR COMPANIES OF FRESH PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS OF APPROXIMATELY 160 MEN PER COMPANY ARRIVED IN LUANDA, TWO ON JULY 14 AND TWO ON THE FIFTEENTH.

8. A REPORTED 3,000 BACONGO LEFT LUANDA FOR THE MOGTT JQ SH QT ON
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A FREIGHTER. A SECOND SHIPLOAD OF 2,000 IS SCHEDULED TO EMBARK JULY 16.

9. UNITA PRESIDENT JONAS SAVIMBI IS TALKING CONFIDENTLY IN THE SOUTH ABOUT UNITA'S PROSPECTS, BUT HIS CHIEF OF INFORMATION IN LUANDA SAID ON JULY 16 THAT UNITA NOW HAS THREE ALTERNATIVES, ONLY THE LAST OF WHICH IS VIABLE: FIGHT, RETURN TO THE BUSH, OR COOPERATE WITH MPLA. FNLA IS FINISHED AS A MAJOR FORCE AND MPLA

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WILL NOT LONG ALLOW IT TO MAINTAIN HERE OR IN THE NORTH. THE MPLA OFFENSIVE IN LUANDA WAS TOO WELL PLANNED TO HAVE BEEN CONCEIVED BY THE MPLA MILITARY: NETO ALVES AND IKO CARRERA EXECUTED IT, BUT THE PLAN ITSELF WAS DEVISED BY A THIRD PARTY EITHER PORTUGUESE OFFICERS OR THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS. OTHER UNITA OFFICIAL TOLD ME A FEW DAYS AGO THAT THE PLANNING WAS DONE BY TWO PORTUGUESE ARMY OFFICERS, A MAJOR AND A CAPTAIN, WORKING THE HIGH COMMAND. THE UNITA INFORMATION CHIEF ADDED THAT THE MPLA STRATEGY WILL BE TO EXPAND ITS CONTROL OVER THE REST OF THE COUNTRY USING LUANDA AS BASE.

10. A PORTUGUESE MILITARY SOURCE ALSO TOLD ME THAT THE MPLA OFFENSIVE IN LUANDA IS A TACTIC WITHOUT STRATEGY, THE TACTIC BEING THE REMOVAL OF FNLA FROM THE CITY AND THE STRATEGY BEING THE GRADUAL TAKEOVER OF THE COUNTRY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY VIOLATION, EXPULSION, LIBERATION FRONTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUANDA00913
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750246-0233
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750752/aaaabtyu.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MPLA PRESIDENT ISSUES BELLIGERENT STATEMENT; POWER OUTAGE IN LUANDA
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, AO, UNITA, MPLA, FNLA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006